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(Continued inside "When Air Travel Begins")

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AVIATION

THE OLDEST AMERICAN AERONAUTICAL MAGAZINE

A McGRAW-HILL PUBLICATION ESTABLISHED 1911

EDWARD P. WARNER, Editor

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The Robin and Its Crew

IN CONFRONTING the wonderful record set up last week in St. Louis, we find ourselves under the embarrassment of having exhausted most of the available sums of praise upon the new record-breaker's pilots. Little more is possible than to re-echo with redoubled force all that we have said before, when previous successful attacks have been made upon the same mark, about the machine, the motor, and the men.

A figure which exceeds any previous attempts by about seventy-five per cent, however, and the amazing feat of remaining for a full two and a half weeks in continuous flight, call for something more than that. Especially is that the case when the conditions under which the trial is run approach so nearly to the ideal.

We have taken occasion from time to time to call attention to the desirability of the conduct, or at least the close supervision, of such tests as these by the manufacturers of the equipment. We have observed with gratification that this latest extraordinary performance was under the direct control of the builders of the airplane, closely aided with the company responsible for the engine. That is as it should be. The success which has been obtained in this entry of the industry into the field of record-breaking ought to encourage the adoption of a similar course in future attempts on this and other established marks.

Particularly noteworthy was the use of an engine of a comparatively new type, one which first came on the market barely a year ago. Experience, and evolution through trial, still have a value that nothing else can quite supply, but a competent design staff, with a proper respect for "theoretical" methods and with a sufficiently broad and varied experience of their own, can come close to the bell's eye at the first trial. A few months of development can then produce reliability like that of the power plant that carried O'Hare and Jackson.

Whether or not this will put a temporary stop to the enthusiasm for refueling records we do not dare to

prophesy. The staggering level now reached by the duration figure should at least make any candidate hesitate and reflect and consider his plans very carefully indeed before deciding to go ahead.

The present offers an excellent occasion, also for a sober survey of the mechanics of refueling flights. There are those, here and abroad, who are procrastinating toward a futile waste of effort. There are others who use in them the dawning of a whole new type of operation, with radiating possibilities of passenger and mail transport over runs of thousands of miles without stopping, the plane taking on fresh supplies in flight. We cannot align ourselves with either party. We find these tests of enormous interest. If properly run, they are of enormous potential value as a test of the equipment and as a spectacular display of the extraordinary reliability and durability that it has attained. They need no practical commercial employment to justify them.

THREE PRACTICAL EMPLOYMENT it, to be sure, likely to be very limited. There may be certain cases upon which refueling might pay its way showing a gain worth the complication of the refueling arrangement. In military operation, however it meets an unquestionable need. To be able to transfer flying loads for great distances over land with refueling on route, or to fly big biplane bombers to the Hawaiian Islands with supplies picked up from smaller planes based on aircraft carriers along the road, would be of great and obvious value. The Army and Navy would be remiss if they did not include those possibilities in their plans for the operation and transfer of equipment in war. On the commercial side, we are quite content to let the fates of the last six months stand on their own feet. They have had a more beneficial effect than many underlings more spectacular. The pilots of the Quaker Mark saw their record quickly surpassed, and it has now been almost tripled, but there is the credit for

amounting interest in an undertaking which has taught the general public things about the capacities of air-planes and their engines previously undreamed of by the layman.

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Alcohol and Altitude

THIS IS a delicate subject. We approach it with some trepidation. In the course of the past twenty years it has become a political issue and a moral one, but we are not concerned with it in either of those aspects. Upon its political bearings we have no editorial views to express. We are concerned only with the safe operation of aircraft and with the general public's confidence in flying.

The non-flying public has analogously been learning about airplane pilots from "War Birds" and the thrilling chronicles of drinking, flying, and fighting which have succeeded it—graphic portrayals of the psychology of men living under wholly abnormal conditions, and subjected to almost unbearable stress, but having no more to do with flying in 1929 than preening in the war of 1812 has to do with the raising of the Lusitania today. The aircraft industry ought, for the sake of public confidence, to take an interest in making this distinction clear.

It is a fact that there exists in some quarters an impression which we are sure is wholly inaccurate, that very many airplane pilots are recklessly heavy drinkers. It is a fact that any such impression is exceedingly discouraging to prospective passengers. Whatever their personal views on prohibition, they have no desire to go flying behind a long-sufferer.

That there may be no misunderstanding, we want to repeat that we emphatically do not suggest that there is serious danger of their having to do so. The operators of air transport lines here and abroad are treating this question precisely as are the operators of railroads and of other transportation enterprises. They are treating it simply as a factor in operating efficiency and safety, and a very important one.

It is and has been for much more than ten years a common rule in railroad practice that no operating employees may take a drink at any time, on or off duty, or frequent a place where liquor is being supplied. It is a universal rule of the railroads, as well as of responsible marine and highway transport companies, that there must be no drinking on duty or shortly before coming on. It is obvious that the operators of an air transport line cannot afford to take any longer chances with lowered physical efficiency of their pilots than can motor bus operators

with their drivers, and the regular air transport companies have in many cases adopted and will ultimately universally adopt rules at least as stringent as those covering surface transportation. Even in European countries where the use of alcohol is very light forces in a universal habit, transport companies forbid any drinking in the morning before starting for a flight. Department of Commerce licenses are subject to immediate revocation for flying under the influence of liquor, and Department of Commerce inspectors see fit to forbid to drink at any time. Most pilots, however, either here or in Europe, need no rules. Their own interest in their work and their own desire to maintain their efficiency at the highest pitch will keep them sober.

There have been, from time to time, pilots who seemed to set all rules at naught, and who boasted that they could fly as well drunk as sober. Some have gained a temporary fame. Some have found retirement from aerial activities the better part of valor. Very few remain. None of them are going to be in important or responsible positions in commercial aviation. They and their ideas are repudiated by the aircraft industry. There would be the worst possible example for young men entering upon the aeronautical profession to follow.

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Who Commands an Airplane?

MOST OF OUR READERS, and especially those who are pilots, will be surprised that such a question can be raised. They take the answer for granted. The airplane, they will say, is in charge of the man handling the controls. There can be only one pilot. He looks no interference. He engages, except in rare cases, in no consultation. He alone decides the direction on what is to be done, and he translates it directly into action.

Although undoubtedly the general view, that is not absolutely a universal one. There are leading operators and constructors who hold slightly different opinions, especially in *Central Europe*, where there is a school of thought which would divide the responsibilities of command and of decision from the technique of piloting. The actual maneuvering of the plane would be left in one set of hands. The responsibility for the planning of the general course of action to be taken would be placed in another.

This plan for a division of responsibility shows itself in the design of the giant bomber plane just tested in Switzerland, for the DOX has controls for two pilots side by side, and behind and above them a bridge or a little office for the commanding officer, a place from which he can look down upon the pilots and give them

his orders. Officials of the KLM, the Dutch Air Transport Company, have proposed a similar device, and plan to transfer their best pilots, as they pass beyond the ordinary flying age, to posts of command where the demands upon their qualities of head and keenness of eye will be relaxed, while still leaving an opportunity for the use of their large experience. There is a certain precedent for placing the direction of the flight elsewhere than in the pilot's hands in the practice frequently followed in military and naval services of making the observer the senior officer in the plane and setting the pilot under his direction. There was a precedent, also, in the planning of the Navy transatlantic flight of ten years ago, where the Commanding Officers of the NC boats were not listed as the pilots.

ONE OF THE ARGUMENTS in favor of the division is grounded on marine practice, where the captain of the ship seldom if ever touches the wheel. That is the task of a member of the crew who is never supposed to exercise judgment, but only to give ten degrees right rudder or fifteen left or hold her steady on a designated course at the word of command.

So respectable a body of opinion certainly deserves respectful study and consideration. Having given it all due weight, we nevertheless feel ourselves unable to agree with it. Analogies are dangerous, and the handling of a ship at sea is a very different thing from the operation of an airplane. Emergency arises in both, but they develop with startling rapidity in the air, with comparative slowness upon the surface. At sea the major problems are those of navigation, and the actual steering of the course as directed is a comparatively simple matter. In the air, it is the handling of the controls that is dominant, and quickness of action is indispensable. The problem of the veteran pilot who does not transfer to an executive position will be met by technical progress, making the manual operations of piloting simpler, with a gradual raising of the age limit as the result. To foresee the pilot become a mere quartermaster has laid the oblique instrument of the lesson of a superior officer pacing the bridge of a great airplane exceeds the present bounds of our imagination.

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The British Show Their Wares

GREAT BRITAIN has recently unveiled an impressive array of its excellent aeronautical wares, and for twelve days has been holding them out to the world at large. It is called the Seventh International Aero Exhibition, but generally it is a presentation of the present status of the British aircraft industry.

The nine years which have elapsed since the Sixth International Aero Exhibition was staged in London have given opportunity for far-reaching evolution in aviation. The contrasts between the 1920 and 1929 displays emphasize again the tremendous progress which has been achieved. This progress in Great Britain is indicative, also, of the general advance throughout the world for the English industry stands well up with the leaders of world aeronautical progress.

In a comparison of the Sixth and Seventh Exhibitions several points are conspicuous. Among them is the predominance of metal construction of the present day, as opposed to the wood and fabric construction of a few years ago. The influence of the World War in aircraft design, to promote nine years ago, has been wiped out of the contemporary products although it is noteworthy that the display includes a considerable majority of machines designed purely for military purposes.

Among the commercial exhibits is the first American-built tri-engine transport to be displayed in Great Britain. The American aviation of Europe deserves the closest observation by the whole American industry, for, like other planes from this side of the Atlantic that have been seen in England previously, the American representative at Olympia has drawn forth very favorable comment.

NO CROSS-SECTION of present-day aviation in England would have been at all true to life without a conspicuous proportion of the light plane. Nowhere else in the world has the really light plane been so successfully manufactured, as its use here is extended, as in England. Therefore, it was to be expected that in this show the light plane would occupy a prominent part. In fact, the numerous light planes shown constituted the distinctly British aspect of the commercial part of the exhibition, as distinguished from the general run of heavier types displayed in air shows the world over.

Looking at the English display of air flying equipment from this side of the Atlantic, we are if it is indicating two things. First that the British designers and mass producers still have to give too much of their time and talent to the strictly military types at the expense of the extremely most important development of commercial aeronautics, second, that is at least one device of commercial aircraft design, that of the light plane for the private owner-pilot, they have not only avoided the approach of neglect but have given the rest of the world a very definite lead.

A brief description of the exposition as seen through the eyes of a former editor of AVIATION is possessed elsewhere in this issue. The observations are the reflections of a personal visit to Olympia and they are rendered all the more valuable to the American reader because of the close contacts to the British Aircraft industry which he enjoyed.

AN AMERICAN PRIVATE

London Aero Show

By EARL D. OSBORN

OLYMPIA, home of all of London's great exhibitions and in particular of the recent aero show, is a fine hall remarkably near the center of the city. The airplanes, engines and accessories which it housed from July 16 to 29 were not only extremely interesting in themselves but most attractively displayed. The show was partly commercial and partly military, but on the whole the balance of interest and numbers lay on the military side. To an American, neither two things were of particular interest. The first was the British use of metal, both light alloys and steel, in specially and often elaborately shaped structural parts;

the other, the British development of large-capacity cross-going flying boats.

As there were over two hundred exhibitors at the show, it would obviously be impossible to give a complete and detailed account of everything that could be seen. It is better and clearer to give the more important features and by grouping types of planes to give a general impression of the state of British aircraft development. One important fact to be noted was that there were only twenty British aircraft manufacturers exhibiting, and in this number are included two or three firms doing only experimental work. Almost fifty planes of British manufacture were on exhibit, with several hulls and fuselages without wings. There were also fourteen foreign planes exhibited. [The total number on display was thus somewhat lower than at the

PILOT LOOKS AT THE

We are giving a large amount of space in the Olympia Show. We expect to supplement this article by at least one more. The American industry cannot neglect what is being done in Europe. Engineers who were unable to cross the Atlantic for the show should make the most of Mr. Osborn's observations.

recent Chicago and Detroit shows—Ed]. Twenty-eight engine manufacturers, including foreign designers, displayed their products. The balance of the exhibits was made up of accessories and the displays of schools, societies, and government departments.

There were several aspects in which the show was more attractive than any held so far in America. Olympia covers a block, and is divided into two main halls. The roof, or rather the skylights, are three high stories above the ground, and a good-sized gallery used for the display of accessories, runs around the sides. There is a series of apses, some of which is easily reached in the halls at Chicago, New York, and Detroit. The halls were draped with banners and decorations, but most important of all was that the planes were not jammed together as they have been at our own shows. The aisles were simply wide, and there had been no attempt to crowd planes in as if they were being stored in a hangar. This policy meant leaving out the large passenger airliners which are so important a part of British civilian air development, but at this time of year all the available airliners are in use anyway.

There were a large number of planes, especially military types, with parts of the wings or fuselage uncovered so that they could be inspected by the public. There were also a good number of cut-out engines being turned over so as to show the working of the parts.

THE ENTIRE GALLERY of one of the two halls was reserved for the displays of the British Air Ministry and the Royal Aeronautical Society. The display of the Air Ministry was obviously planned to impress the public, and especially foreign visitors, with the thoroughness and intricateness of British aircraft. All the various phases of the testing of materials and the inspecting of workmanship were shown, and one left with the feeling that Britain was carrying out this end of its work with a thoroughness which might be galling to the manufacturers but which ought to insure a reliable product. The Royal Aeronautical Society had arranged a most attractive display of historic models, suspended in chronological order against a background of rolling English landscapes and producing a most pleasing effect. There were also many old prints and photographs of events of historic importance. It was plain that more artistic effort had been put into the show than is usually the case. The general impression was one of color, animation, and good taste.

The accessories housed around the galleries were well displayed, and most of the books were partitioned off so as to have small private offices in the rear. These

were also an adequate number of chairs for tired visitors to sit in. There were the Finney microscope which flew in India, a supermarine motor, and a couple of Moths all painted in white, were suspended from the ceiling or mounted on high pedestals. Such features as these gave the show an air which made it pleasant to be in the hall.

As has been stated before, the use of metal was one of the most interesting features of the show to a visitor from the United States. British manufacturers, or rather the British Air Ministry, were slow in approving the use of metal in aircraft, and except in the smaller commercial machines there is even today practically no welding in construction. Probably because of this, the British are far ahead of us in the use of light alloys and stainless steels. In America, welding became standard practice many years ago, and we have never learned anything better. The British have developed most ingenious methods of fastening tubular structures such as fuselages together, and have built wing spars which, though they look extremely complicated at first glance are in reality not so very hard to make. To go into the detail of these structures would require more space here. [This type of construction has been described in detail by Capt. Sayers in the *American Aeronautical Engineering Supplement* for June 15 and July 20—Ed.] For fastening the fuselage tubes a number of schemes have been worked out. Some use gusset plates inserted in splice webs, others use collars fitted around tube ends, but in all cases the result is a fuselage which is finally assembled by riveting. One of the nearest examples of this was found in the Bristol Bulldog. In the wing spars there is a great variety of types. The simplest is a two-piece section, put out by Boulton and Paul for light planes. The two sections, after having had the proper notches and slots filed into them, are clamped together by a crimping and drawing process. The more complicated spars for large planes, such as those put out by Short Brothers, consist of both stamped and drawn sections. The center of the short spar is a square box with stamped lightning holes. This is surrounded



A view across the engine section. (Note the use of models in the decorative scheme.)

by four corrugated sections, which have been drawn into shape, and the whole is riveted together in an ingenious and comparatively simple way. All the recent British military machines are of all-metal construction except for the covering. Stainless steel is preferred by many of the manufacturers for everything except the propellers. However, in many of the machines stainless steel cannot be used with reasonable ease, and they are therefore built of ordinary steel. Duralumin is still dominated because of fear of fatigue, but it is widely used, especially among those who have built both hulls and are familiar with its properties. The drawn metal sections are admirably more expensive than corresponding wooden structures, but they are also much lighter, especially in the larger sizes. It is claimed that an large quantities they would be cheaper than wood. In this respect, America certainly has much to learn from England.

ENGLAND is also far ahead of us in the actual construction and use of large flying boats. The standard British line of development, as exemplified at the show by the Short "Sargander" and the Supermarine "Sphinx", is a two-engine biplane with a large and powerful hull. The hulls and the spars are built out of duralumin in both of these boats. A considerable amount of flexibility is planned for and deliberately sought in the hull construction. Neither plane has complete bulkheads across the hull, and one is able to tread freely from nose to tail. There are, however, water-tight transverse runnings up to the floor level and two adjacent sections of the bottom can be flooded without the boats sinking. The Short has a very marked sponson, and in the Supermarine, the steps are built on a practically circular hull, the object being to obtain flexibility. The main spars of both planes are comparatively shallow, but the rear spar, which is only a few feet in front of the vertical undercarriage, is very marked, and has a much steeper V than the main spar. The structure supporting the tail is an elliptical extension of the hull and raises the control surfaces high above the water.

The Blackburn "Nile" is of a different type. It is a monoplane with three Jupiter engines set in the leading edge of the wing. The wing is externally braced and set very far above the hull. The hull is fitted for commercial use and seats fourteen passengers in great comfort. The exterior form is remarkable for the extremely sharp V of the bottom. Near the tail the wings rise in over forty degrees, and though it curves out over the water to a better slope, the whole angle is extremely sharp.

Two small flying boats for private commercial use were shown. One, the "Citty Sark," built by S. E. Saunders, Ltd., is a four-spar monoplane of very pleasing and simple design. At the show it was fitted with two 105 hp. Hercules engines. It can also be fitted with three engines in which case it could fly if one engine failed. The engines are mounted high above the hull. The propellers are in line with the rear of the cabin, which is located as the bow and forward of the front spar. The other small boat was a two-seater private monoplane put out in France by Loire and Olivier. The construction was entirely of wood, and in design it was notable because the propeller was carried back from the engine on a long drive shaft. The bottom, following French custom, was flat. The riveting and detail of workmanship in all the British "whs" were extremely good. Frames and stringers were

made from drawn or best sections, practically no extruded sections being used. Most of the boats had no exterior ribs, but were fitted with attachable wheel discs for beaching purposes.

One cannot leave the field of water flying without mentioning the float planes. There were several, such as the Short "Blaine" and the Parnall "Pilot" which were designed primarily as seaplanes, and a number of biplanes were also exhibited with floats. One of the most interesting was a Moth fitted with a single float seaplane gear developed by Short Bros. This consisted of a short stub wing or tube whose top was flush with the deck. In the tube was an axle which could be raised. To the ends of the axle were mounted struts to which the wheels were attached. By raising the axle the wheels were lowered or raised. Incidentally, the Short floats were beautifully built both from the point of view of workmanship and aerodynamic design. Most of the floats had coxswain bottoms, but some of them ran on a straight V used over the cleave, where they branched out horizontally so as to draw the spray. None of them were fitted with spray skirts, although the bottom angles were very steep in some cases. Also none of them had rubbing aprons below the level. Water rudders were attached to the floats in many cases.

BOTH from the point of view of numbers and interest, the most popular group was a dominant feature of the show. Broadly speaking, they included six types, the very strong easily manoeuvrable plane, the diving or high-speed type, and the interceptor type. The latter is almost not so much for fighting other pursuit planes as for starting from ground level and outlying up to a fight of bombers. It has an extraordinarily rapid climb and very good high speed at altitudes of 20,000 ft. The pursuit planes were about equally divided between water and air-minded engines. In general, the water-minded types which are designed primarily for speed, have long narrow fuselages and a greater span, while the air-minded types have shorter fuselages and shorter spans for greater manoeuvrability. In one very important characteristic the British pursuit or fighter plane is different from ours. None of the wings on the British planes taper either in thickness or in plan form. Except where vision is sacrificed, there is no easy back to levelled vision is obtained by giving a good deal of stagger and by raising the pilot's cockpit so that his eyes are almost as a level with the trailing edge of the upper wing. In machines equipped with radial engines this gives the plane a rather non-pleasant appearance when in motion. [This practice was deliberately abandoned by our Army Air Corps several years ago in favor of putting the pilot below the level of the wing, giving less vision upward but a perfectly clear field straight ahead—ed.] With the longer fuselages of the water-minded engines this effect is not nearly so noticeable. The latest types of pursuit planes were shown, and they are a great improvement in design over the service types which flew at London. On the whole, the machines are extremely clean in design. Some, however, still had reconnaissance, and even the Hawker "Horse" which is claimed to be the fastest military plane in the world, had external reconnaissance. One interesting feature is that duplicate lift wires are not considered necessary in England, and most of the fighting and commercial planes except in the very large class have single lift wires. All the pursuit planes and practically every other plane at the show was fitted

with oleo landing gears. Landing gears were about equally divided between split and straight axle types in the majority of cases the upper and lower wings are about the same size and except in the case of the Bristol Bulldog little dihedral is employed. The only exception to the rule of biplanes for pursuit purpose was a low-wing all-metal monoplane put out by Vickers. The wing covering consists of comparatively small sheets of duralumin which are riveted to each other by a special process developed by Whitcomb. Vickers holds the British license for Whitcomb's patents and designs. It was impossible to obtain exact performance figures on the British pursuit planes, but judging by appearance the new types ought to be very fast and have a good rate of climb. It should be noted that according to the Air Ministry regulations all military machines must be built of metal except the covering. The spars and ribs of the pursuit planes are all built of alloy steel of very high strength, instead of wood as in the practice with the civil types. This accounts for the fact that the British planes have no taper, for shaping a steel spar into a tapered section is much more difficult than manufacturing a drawn corrugated spar of constant section.

There were six two-seater military machines displayed. Of the most of the fighters, they are designed for various purposes which more or less blend into each other. They handling and manoeuvrability are the principal ones. The present and cleanest of these planes were the "Foxy" and the Hawker "Hart" which are in reality enlarged pursuit planes of the high-speed type. The slightly larger fuselage with the same size engine makes possible a smoother looking fuselage, and these machines are a pleasure to look at. It is also said that they have an excellent performance, equal or superior in speed and climb to the service pursuit planes at the present day. The Fox has a wing radiator in the center section, but besides this has a considerable amount of armor plating underneath the fuselage. The bomb racks in most of the two-seaters were mounted under the wings. As the fighters, a broad machine gun is used. There were also two two-bay planes in the two-seater class.

There were three two-engine military machines exhibited. The Boulton and Paul "Slate" and the "Slate" are both very interesting forms of steel construction. The Boulton and Paul "Slate" is a biplane with very interesting forms of steel construction. The Boulton and Paul "Slate" is a biplane with very interesting forms of steel construction.

tion, was well worth careful study. The Vickers "Virginia" troop carrier of the type which took part in the evacuation of Kalcut was also present, as was part of a Handley Page bomber. The bombers and large planes are fitted with ground engines, but have jacks both air and water cooling are used.

FROM THE COMMERICAL STANDPOINT the exhibit was not so interesting as the American exhibits which are given over entirely to commercial machines. The truth is that England has not the variety of production of commercial planes that exists in the United States. Outside of the large passenger-carrying planes and the light two-seaters there has been little demand for commercial aircraft in England and they have not actively pushed their Colonial trade. As a result, the commercial machines are mainly by product of the military factories. The chief exception is the DeHavilland works, which has concentrated on commercial work. The same is true in a lesser extent of the Avro. And there are some or four other purely commercial builders whose production so far has been very limited. The large multi-engine passenger planes which have been developed for Imperial Airways were not exhibited. Handley Page also carried part of the fuselage of a forty-passenger plane and the Blackburn company the hull of a passenger-carrying flying boat, but outside of this there was no evidence of British development in this line.

Of course, no substantial production has been realized in these large planes. In the two-seater class, however, real production has been attained, and if the DeHavilland company continues producing Moths at the present rate it will be building more planes of a single type than any company in the United States. DeHavilland exhibited their standard Moth, a Moth Compe, and a Moth seaplane. These planes are so well known in



A general view of one end of the hall with the Fox monoplane in the middle background. Immediately in front of it is the seaplane side of a 60 passenger plane of Handley Page design. The foreground shows some representative steel framing.

the United States as to need no description. A new addition to the DeHavilland line is a four-seater cabin with broad cabin monoplane fitted with a 240 hp Armstrong-Siddeley engine showing a strong influence of American cabin monoplane design. To increase visibility the wings do not extend across the cabin and a transparent floor has been fitted which is somewhat below the top of the adjoining wing.

A. V. Roe & Co. Ltd. showed two three-engined cabin monoplanes in addition to the Avon. These are both under design from Fokker. One is a three-passenger plane, the other eight-passenger. The larger machine is fitted with three "Lycos" engines and the smaller with three 100 hp "Gestet Major" radial engines. Both DeHavilland and Roe are experimenting with welded steel fuselages for their two-seater planes, and both are also fitting some of their planes with radial instead of in-line engines.

THE HAVILLAND LIGHTNING should be of interest to Americans, as it is a type which has been little developed either here or abroad. It is a broad cabin monoplane carrying six and fitted with three four-cylinder in-line Cirrus "Blennies" engines.

Due to the small frontal area of the intake engines the plane has a clean appearance. The cabin is quite roomy and it is said that the plane will fly com-

fortably on two engines. DeHavilland also showed a two-seater monoplane.

Showing the tendency toward closed cabin construction was a five-place biplane fitted with a 200 hp Bristol engine. There was also a neat three-seater cabin plane put out by Dornier Aircraft around a Cirrus engine. The Blackburn company showed their sole in-line two-seater. Bristol was an all-metal wing structure. Forwardly Aircraft Ltd. showed three two-seater biplanes, the fuselage of which is interchangeable wing panels and control surfaces. There were two two-powered planes and a single-seater closed cabin monoplane, put out by A.B.C. Motors, Ltd., and the other an experimental low speed two-seater put out by Hamilton & Paul. With the exception of the Short "Maudslayi" monoplane the only low-wing monoplane was a single-seater put out experimentally by Glenny and Henderson. Lateral control in this machine was obtained by two discs projecting on ribs beyond the wing tips. When the discs were raised out only would their angle to the air be altered but their shape was such as to present a lifting surface on one side and a reversed lift or inverted wing effect when the other side was raised to meet the air stream.

Cervia Autogiro Company Ltd. showed a model of their sports autogiro. This machine is obviously a great advance in design over previous models. It is

the first to have a special landing boat, instead of adapting a standard fuselage. The suggestion of starting the rotor by towing around the field has been eliminated, and it is claimed that it will take off in less than thirty yards. The rotors are now covered with plywood, and are also fitted with a braking mechanism.

Being restricted to the foreign planes and accessories it will be well to mention in a few particulars and specifications comments. Cowling of radial engines varies greatly. Some are not cowled at all, some have cylinders covered individually some employ a modified N.A.C.A. cowling and others the much simpler Townsend ring which is normally like the N.A.C.A. design in basic principle and nearly in detail but is equally efficient. Cowling of engines is much more prevalent than in this country. Skins are in use on almost one third of the machines, both commercial and military. They vary greatly in length and even in design, but none were shown covering the whole length of the wing. Adapters of the True type are very prevalent. Alkones are put on the lower, upper, or on both wings there being no marked preference. Wheel brakes are beginning to put in their appearance, but are not nearly as widely used as in this country. There were no adjustable flying boats at the exhibit. Folding wings, especially on the larger commercial types, are much more prevalent than in America. Adjustable stabilizers are little used in the smaller planes. In the larger planes they are all hinged on the leading edge of the stabilizer and are raised or lowered at the rear. Otto gears are almost universal. Two wing sections are generally used and taper is exceptional.

The show at Olympia had a few more foreign planes than our so-called International show but the floor space taken by them was small compared to that given over to British products. By far the most important foreign exhibit was the Westcott-Pont "Maid" which was in the largest passenger-carrying airplane on the floor, but it was very much lower in price than most of the planes displayed on foreign air lines. This fact alone will attract much attention to it as its rivals coming through Europe. With the exception of Heinkel and Bloch, biplanes, which are semi-military, the foreign exhibits were all of commercial planes. France was represented by two Panhard, a Potez two-seater, and a two-seater Lioré and Olivier flying boat. These planes were of wooden construction, and Panhard still sticks to piston valve controls. Something they did not seem to be up to the British displays in other design or workmanship. The Italian machines were interesting. Fiat showed a very pretty high wing two-seater monoplane at 100 hp. Two seats ran from the rear spar over the pilot's head to the fuselage, allowing doors to be cut for some time. Three seats ran over a two-seater closed-cabin monoplane which looked well except for poor vision. All the foreign airplanes were monoplane and on most of them the ailerons extended the full length of the wing. Junkers showed their new two-seater monoplane, which with its flat, tapered wing was very pleasing to the eye. Dornier and Heinkel exhibited models of their planes, and there were various German technical exhibits of airplanes, etc. Klemm-Daenker showed their little monoplane.

Accessory booths were distributed around the walls of both the large and small halls and also around the pillars that surrounded these. Benefits was there with

John Country in charge. Scoville had a booth, but Tom Fagan was missing. Everything was displayed from bigger planes in general show. There were perhaps more exhibits of different models and worked metal parts than at an American show, and aeronautical accessory exhibits were perhaps more often large firms who had a side line in aeronautics; but on the whole one might have been wandering around at Detroit or Chicago except that the masses were different. Tires, tools, and "fixings" were exhibited side by side with publications, parachutes, and petrol pumps in distracting displays. Most of the exhibitors had permission off part of their display space into a sort of private office. The principal air transport lines of most of the European countries had displays, and there were also several displays from foreign research laboratories. Marconi had a fine showing of wireless apparatus. There was a complete exhibit of weather recording instruments for airports. There were also several displays of aircraft instruments but somehow they did not appear as so long particularly original, and certainly not as interesting as they were. On the whole there were few ideas among the accessories which have not been tried in this country. There were, however, a few which ought to be of interest. First was a single-spar frame for a monoplane prop, for which great thought are planned. This was a simple, strong, and easily attached to a wing strut, given warning when loading stress is approached. There was a display of hollow metal propellers welded at the screws. There were chemical bombs which when dropped to the ground emit smoke showing which way the wind is blowing. There was a variable pitch propeller, and a wonderfully complicated catapult landing gear. Palmer exhibited a brake band which is put into action by the expansion of an inner tube which lies under the band. This is worked either by compressed air or by hydraulic pressure. There was a supply stand, appearing in shape serving and assistance equipment. Perhaps the most popular device with spectators was the Bend apparatus for testing the rapidly and accuracy of an individual's reaction in order to find out if he will make a good pilot. The accessories at a whole were well displayed, and would have required more time than most of the visitors had to give them.

CONSIDERING the spell of hot weather, very considerable crowds attended the show, with a probable average of about five thousand people a day. And it must be remembered that the show was primarily ordinary. Where other exhibitions go into a battle with dealers and distributors, the British of such a phase is not too undignified, go into a battle with Alphas and Sennos. Groups of important-looking foreigners, American, Canadian, French, were constantly being escorted through the halls and among them was our own Bill MacCracken. There was nothing radically startling shown at the exhibit, but there was much that was of interest. Although we may differ with the British in our ideas on both structure and arrangement, we must admit that the workmanship of the British planes seemed excellent. The planes on the whole had a finish of construction which gave confidence in the product. Both from the manner in which the show was staged and the quality of the planes, the exhibit at Olympia commended the respect of the American visitor.



The Palace of Machines in one section. (Clockwise from the N.A.C.A. stand in general principle and progress)

700 To 1,000 Flying Hours

By JAMES P. WINES

MAJOR

HEARING a person say that he obtains from 700 to 1,000 hr. between major overhauls on an OX-5 engine—and that this is done regularly on 30 engines used in student training—would lead one to believe that that person was highly imaginative to say the least. However, "Murphy" Gooden, instructor at Parks Air College, Inc., does not think so, but he will show the log books to prove it, and then he will explain how it is done. Murphy, it might be explained, is the service manager for Parks Air College, Inc., East St. Louis, Ill., and it is his duty to keep the COX engines that power the school training planes in operating condition.

Both the great care and thoroughness with which the actual overhauling work is performed by the Parks service organization and the rigid system of inspection and maintenance that is in force have a great deal to do with the length of time that the engines may be operated before it becomes necessary to tear them down for overhaul.

The handling of the engines in the air, of course, likewise affects the operating life. With the planes used for dual instruction, Murphy says, the average time between top overhauls is from 300 to 375 hr., while it takes a solo student, many of whom are "old gas artists" a spite of all admonitions to throttle down their engines, only from 125 to 250 hr. to plant them in the shop. This accounts in part for the variation in time between major overhauls.

There is an old saying that "accuracy is the mother of invention," and in the case of Parks Air College it is more than true. The Parks school is now operating 28 training planes powered with OX-5 engines. Twenty-seven of these planes are three passenger, open cockpit, Ford Air Hydras, while the other is a "Robin" manufactured by Curtiss-Robertson Airplane Manufacturing Company. The Travel Airs are used for navigation and solo work, and the Robin to provide training in a plane of the small cabin type. The school also has planes of other types, equipped with more powerful

engines, which are used for other purposes such as night flying.

With the growing number of students that the institution has handled since it was opened April 15, 1936, it has become increasingly necessary that the greatest possible efficiency be obtained from the power plants. Forced landings were something that could not be condoned. Although southern Illinois is practically all landing country, a serious solo student might "crack-up" if he were forced down, and for that reason a forced landing constitutes a danger, not only to the plane but to the student as well. What is more, such a landing would place the plane out of commission for a time, and time is the operation of a flying school is money. As a result, the engine now in use is gradually evolved. Its condition may be judged by the long periods between both top and major overhauls and the number of forced landings. A forced landing is said to occur on an average of once in every 351 hr. of flying.

APPROXIMATELY one half of the Parks fleet of training planes is operated in the morning, while the remainder is used in the afternoon. The students, likewise, are divided into two groups so that about half of the 271 now enrolled in the flight school fly in the morning, while the other half flies in the afternoon. This system makes it possible to perform the daily inspections and any necessary repairs or adjustments on the planes flown in the morning, the afternoon of the same day. The planes to be flown by



BETWEEN OVERHAULS

The group taking flight instruction in the afternoon.

of course, are inspected and worked on in the morning. The line inspector, who is a mechanic, performs the daily inspections which include checking the valves, cooling system and breaker points of the engines, as well as a check of the planes. He also makes any minor adjustments. If there are repairs to be made, a ticket is made out and the plane is turned over to the chief service mechanic.

As an added check on the planes and engines, the pilot makes a daily report, which is turned over to the chief mechanic before the pilot leaves the field. In the cockpit of each plane, there is a pad of mimeographed "Flight Reports" together with a pencil. The report pad is placed there so that the pilot may make any notations on the performance of the plane that he cares to while in the air. This is to forestall any forgetfulness on his part. Aside from his remarks on the condition of the plane and engine, the form has spaces for the license number of the plane, the date, the hours it was flown that day and the pilot's name.

From the flight report, if any repairs are needed, the



One of the OX-5's that at 300 hours is being off

How Parks Air College, Inc., Has Increased the Operating Life of Its OX-5 Engines; First of a Series of Three Articles About the Service Organization of the School

chief mechanic makes out a shop card. This card also gives the date, the type of plane, its number, and, in addition, the name of the mechanic assigned to the job, the name of the person inspecting the work, upon its completion, the list of repairs and any remarks. Entries on the log are made from the shop card after the work has been done, and it is then kept on file for 30 days in case there is need to refer to it. The back of the card, incidentally, is used to list the gains withdrawn from the student's giving a check on the status in addition to the storeman keeper's record.

THE PLANE is washed daily with water. This operation is under the supervision of the field chief, who is responsible for seeing to it that the surfaces are cleaned during the operation. Every other day, also, the engine are washed with gasoline to remove any excess oil that



A View of Parks Air College, Inc., showing a portion of the fleet of training planes on the base

may have accumulated. This procedure is followed to reduce the fire hazard insofar as possible. Every 15 hr. the oil in the engines is changed and every 30 hr. the oil screens are removed and cleaned. For the 100 hr. inspections required by the Department of Commerce, the planes are grounded, and are inspected from appear to the rider seat.

It is interesting to note in this connection, when a plane is grounded for an inspection or because there are excessive repairs that must be made, that the line as-



An aerial view of Parks Air College, Inc., base at Lehigh, PA. Note the extensive landing field across the railroad tracks.

specimen attaches a red tag to it. The tag says "Grounded," and it means just that at the Parks Airport according to officials. It can be removed only by the line inspector, and if service were to return it or to fly the plane, it would incur the loss of his position. The tag, by the way, has space for the date and time, the name of the pilot, the reason the plane was grounded, the signature of the mechanic who makes the repairs, the name of the person who inspects his work, and the list of repairs.

At the end of each 800 hr. of operation, the OV engines used in the training planes are jettisoned and are taken into the overhaul shop for inspection. The oil, naturally, has been drained and the engine is inspected in placed upside down on a stand. The lower half of the fuselage is removed and the bearings are thoroughly

shook. This is done by connecting a copper tube from a pressure tank, manufactured by Curtis Propane Machinery Company, St. Louis, Mo., to the oil pump connection. Two gal. of light oil contained in the tank are then forced through the oil circulating system under a pressure of from 50 to 75 lb. If the bearings have developed any leaks, this test will reveal the leak; but it is seldom, according to Mr. Shosholsky, that there is any work to be done. In rare instances, he says, the mainshaft bearings have become leaky, but this trouble has been practically eradicated by the use of bearings constructed of an alloy of 315 thread steel hardness.

The valves in the OV engines are never allowed to blow, Mr. Shosholsky, who is much better known as Murphy, reports. As a result the school is said to obtain as much as 1,000 hr. of service from them. The rigid inspection system makes this possible. The blowing of valves is caused by excessive wearing of the valve guides, and a permissible wearing of the guides is usually noticed in the superchargers two or three days before it would cause any damage. The line inspector, finding that this condition exists, has the engine sent to the shop immediately for top overhaul.

The general condition of the engine and its variation in the oil pressure of 25 lb. are, for the most part, the governing factors in connection with major overhauls. The variation of pressure indicates that there is a leak in the lubrication system. This usually is found to be the result of the wearing of the connecting rod bearings, which causes the engine to throw oil. The pressure of the OV-5's used in the Parks training planes are not fitted with oil scraper rings, and consequently the engines are torn down when the wearing of the bearings reaches itself apparent. Leakage, of course, can also necessitate a general overhaul, but this is a minor cause so far as engines used by the Parks school are concerned.



SHOP CARDS	
NAME	PARKS AIRFIELD INC.
ADDRESS	401 W. 10th St.
PHONE	2-1000
DATE	8-25-39
TIME	10:00 AM
BY	W. H. H. H.
REMARKS	Prop. changed, Prop. changed, 100
DATE	8-25-39
TIME	10:00 AM
BY	W. H. H. H.

FLIGHT RECORD	
DATE	8-25-39
TIME	10:00 AM
BY	W. H. H. H.
REMARKS	Prop. changed, Prop. changed, 100
DATE	8-25-39
TIME	10:00 AM
BY	W. H. H. H.

There: A reproduction of one of the tags used at Parks Air College when a plane is grounded. Note the shop card, which is filed and when ready are to be checked on a plane or engine, and the flight report of the pilot from which the engine can be the shop card.

THE PREST "Baby Pursuit"

Single Place, Anzani Powered Monoplane is Characterized by a Diamond Shaped Fuselage

By CHARLES F. McREYNOLDS

THE PREST "Baby Pursuit" represents a definite effort to build a plane optimized for the low horsepower single place fight. In developing this plane Mr. C. D. Prest has been able to utilize basic patterns on the fuselage construction.

In flight tests some remarkable performances have been recorded: although the power plant used is an Anzani 45 of only 40 hp. Loops have been made without loss of altitude, banking turns, steep rolls, level flight without loss of altitude, and right and left roll into inverted flight from the top of a loop have all been performed by C. D. Prest, designer and builder, who first flew the plane; L. Ray, main pilot on the Varsity system, and Eddie Morris, of Martins Airport, Santa Ana.

Stiffness of the various parts has been demonstrated during severe maneuvers, there was no flutter in either wing or empennage even during a prolonged power dive. The plane has been designed with a high load factor in low incidence, and is essentially rugged throughout. A remarkable feature of the performance tests has been the neutral control achieved with full surfaces of abnormally small size. This is credited to the diamond line of air around the curved fuselage, which is of diamond shape section and of excellent long and air streamline.

The Baby Prest is a parasol type monoplane of 20 ft. span, the outstanding feature being the diamond



Charles D. Prest, designer and builder of the Baby Prest, standing in front of his airplane.

shape fuselage section which is essentially four triangular plane system. It is said that there is no of the lateral fuselage strut system could be completely destroyed without decreasing the strength of the fuselage before the representative for all normal flight loads.

Because of its diamond section, the fuselage loads itself readily to an efficiency system of wing and landing gear bracing, the semi-cantilever wing being mounted at the center in the fuselage above the four fuselage longerons, and being braced by three short struts on each side to the middle longerons. A



A photograph of the Baby Prest plane.

check strut extends from each of the side longerons to each landing gear axle, the axles being shorter than usual because of the lower position of the lower fuselage longerons.

Acoustic performance tests have determined the top

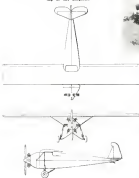
speed of the plane with the Anzani 45 to be 100 m.p.h. climb 1,000 ft. per min. at sea level, and landing speed 45 m.p.h.

Built in one piece with six layers of double wire drag bracing, the wing has a total weight covered of 122 lb. Since the total wing area is but 95 sq ft. it is apparent that the construction is very rugged. Five compression members of chrome molybdenum steel tubing are bolted to the wing through heavy steel fittings, the bolts being carried into plugs which are screwed into the compression struts. Ribs are spaced 12 in. apart across the wing and are nailed to the laminated spruce spars. The wing chord is 48 in. and is consistent from tip to tip except for a cut out above the pilot's cockpit. Terracotta bonded steel ribs of Cottrell 308 series are used. A heavy spruce nose piece is used along the leading

edge in diameter. Howe truss welded construction is employed, the four longons being arranged with two side members, one top and one bottom, the top longons being cut out at the pilot's cockpit and hinged around so that no strength is sacrificed. Overall length of the fuselage is 18 ft. and the diagonals giving width and depth are 35 in. each way, inside measurements at the widest point. Dimensions of the pilot's cockpit are 35 in. wide and 29 in. deep. Because of the maximum width being at the center line of the fuselage, visibility from the pilot's cockpit is extremely good in all directions.

A spring cushion is fitted in the pilot's seat but may be removed to provide room for a seat pack parachute. Conventional type "A" instrument panels will be standard equipment, carrying tachometer, altimeter, oil pressure and temperature gauges, and engine switches. All

Sketch—side view of the "Baby Parnet" below—A front view of the structure of the airplane



edge while the outer trailing edge is taken up by the ailerons, each of which is 11 ft. long and but 5 1/2 in. wide. These ailerons are of steel tube construction and are mounted to the rear spar or struts with spring hinges pivoting around the forward spar of the aileron, which is tubular. This construction permits the ailerons to rotate around the center of the front spar and permits of practically no gap on either upper or lower surface. The lateral control obtained by this method is said to be unusually effective. Wing tips have a rake of one foot on each side and balsaw wood fitting is used to reinforce the tips.

All fuselage members are chrome molybdenum steel tubing. Fittings also being of chrome molybdenum steel. Tubing sizes vary from 20 to 36 gauge and from 1 1/2 to



controls are operated by wire cables running over drum-shaped pulleys to horns, conventional steel and rubber bar controls being standard in the cockpit. All wires run beneath the floorboards.

The fuselage structure is welded during construction and finished with red oxide primer and lacquer. Nacromex fabric, sewed on in used for covering both wing and fuselage. Standard colors will be black fuselage and silver wings and tail surfaces, the finest grade of pigmented acetate dyes being used on the fabric. Wing struts are 16 in. long and are of 18 gauge chrome molybdenum steel 1 1/2 in. in diameter, two parallel lift struts being rivet on each side and a pair of drag struts being carried forward from the front spar wing strut fitting to a fitting on the center longons each side of the fuselage. This mounting is extremely rigid and has a high factor of safety. All bolts being of nickel steel and 1/2 in. diameter. It is said that the wing may be mounted or dismounted by one man in ten minutes.

Dovetail axle landing gear is standard equipment, track being 6 ft. and Gross shock strut standard. Tires are 20 by 4 in. Union States. A leaf spring tail skid is mounted to the tail post.

An eight-gallon gasoline tank carried in the fuselage just forward of the pilot's cockpit provides a cruising radius of 250 mi. and furthermore fuel to the engine by gravity feed. The oil tank, of two-gallon capacity, also feeds by gravity.

Aluminum covering is carried around the engine from a point just forward of the cockpit to a spinner on the wood propeller, which is of Storz manufacture.

Although the "Baby Parnet" has been test flown with the Anzani 45 engine, it may also be equipped with the Siemens H-AD engine such as is used on the Aero-nautische-Klassen monoplane. There is at present no



A close up of the rear of the Parnet. This shows the welded construction of the fuselage structure

American engine of the proper size to power this plane but a four cylinder radial air cooled engine of two cycle type has been designed and is now under construction at the Parnet factory. This engine is expected to be ready for flight testing within 90 days, and if satisfactory will be used on all production models.

The Parnet engine is built around a new principle on which patents have already been applied. Although of two cycle type, the engine will be furnished to the cylinder by means of a blower instead of through crank case compression. Also, instead of drawing mixture into the cylinder through a port at the bottom it will be introduced through a mechanically operated valve in the head of the cylinder, exhaust being through ports as in other engines of this type. By eliminating crank case compression of fuel, lubrication troubles are said to be eliminated. Since each cylinder fires on every stroke the overhead valves may be operated from a cam mounted directly on the propeller shaft, thus eliminating



The uncovered fuselage structure of the plane showing the general type of construction employed

any gears from the engine. One engine of this type has already been tested and proved practical.

Construction is now underway in the Parnet factory at Arroyo, Calif., on two planes, one of single seat construction and the other a two place craft. The two place plane will be of parasol type with the wing mounted several inches above the fuselage, V struts being employed between the wing fittings at the center, and the same fuselage longons fittings are used on the single place plane.

Manufacture of the new Parnet planes will be conducted in the present factory building which is of ample size and has been completely rigged and toolled for a production of one plane per week at once, and one a day soon after production starts.

C. O. Parnet has had many years of experience in designing, building, and flying airplanes, and has also had considerable experience with building and operating two cycle engines. He is a member of the Early Bird Club, formed in 1911, has been flying ever since and has built eight different types of airplanes of both monoplane and biplane type, all of which were successful craft.

Specifications of the Parnet "Baby Parnet" as supplied to AVIATION by the manufacturer are:

Length overall	18 ft.
Height	5 ft. 6 in.
Span	26 ft. 1 in.
Chord	48 in.
Angle of incidence	zero
Wing area	95 sq ft.
Weight of wing complete	122 lb.
Weight of fuselage strips	61 lb.
Weight of plane empty	500 lb.
Gross weight loaded	725 lb.
Wing loading	75 lb. per sq ft.
Power loading	16 1/2 hp. per hp.

Performance according to manufacturer

High speed	100 m.p.h.
Landing speed	45 m.p.h.
Climb	1,000 ft. per min.
Service ceiling	above 70,000 ft.
Cruising range	250 mi.

SOME PERTINENT FACTS ABOUT

Aviation Engine Oils

By F. R. STALEY

Chief Chemist, Texaco Pacific East and Oil Company, Joint IPAC Oil Test

SINCE THE WORLD WAR much progress has been made by the petroleum industry in the manufacture of lubricants suitable for aircraft engine lubrication. Progress and improvement in engine design is effected by close cooperation between the designer and the lubrication engineer. One of the first lubricants to be used for aviation engines was Castor oil. This oil is still extensively used in Europe. It has several advantages over mineral oils and also some very decided disadvantages. It does not "thin out" as much with increasing temperature as do most mineral oils. In other words, it shows a minimum change of viscosity with temperature change. It also possesses a valuable lubricating property known as "oiliness" which is not entirely understood but is the tendency of the oil to adhere to or "wet" the metal. The lubrication to the use of Castor oil are its high price, the tendency to decompose and deposit in storage, the formation of gums in the engine when subjected to heat for any long period of time, and the lack of a viscosity index. It is possible to obtain

general oils in a wide range of viscosities. The specifications for Liberty Aero Oils include oils having a viscosity of 75 seconds Saybolt at 250 degrees Fahrenheit to 125 seconds at 275 degrees Fahrenheit.

Most all of the aviation engine oils used in the United States are refined from crude petroleum. According to their composition and the different tests their physical and chemical properties, crude oils and the lubricant oils produced

from them can be divided into three general classes: paraffin, asphalt and mineral base. Paraffin base oils, which are the highest priced oils, contain paraffin wax, asphalt base oils contain asphalt, and mineral base oils contain both paraffin wax and asphalt.

In order to produce a satisfactory aviation engine oil from one of these crudes it is necessary to remove the asphalt or the wax, since neither one of these substances is a lubricant. Refining of petroleum usually consists of four steps:

- (1) Distillation, which separates the oil into gasoline, kerosene, gas oils and lubricating stock.
- (2) Unsettling treatment to remove impurities from the oils.
- (3) Polishing by means of fine clays or filters earth to improve the color of the oil.
- (4) Devising in which the oil is heated to a low temperature to precipitate the wax, which is then filtered out or removed by means of a centrifugal separator, the one used for the separation of water from milk.

Until recent years paraffin base oils were hard to secure due to their high wax content, which caused them to solidify at comparatively high temperatures, although their superiority at higher operating temperatures of the engine is recognized.

The compressive use of the airplane in the United States demands an all-weather oil one that shows a minimum change over a wide temperature range. An engine might



A section of the physical laboratory at Texaco Pacific East and Oil Company, San Francisco, where tests are performed.

be started in zero weather and be flying in a tropical temperature before a landing is made. In order to produce an oil to meet the requirements for such service, petroleum chemists and engineers devised methods of completely removing the wax from the paraffin base oils. The effect of this was to lower the pour point of the oil, or the temperature at which it would solidify. The result is that heavy paraffin base oils suitable for aviation engine lubrication have been produced that will flow at sub-zero temperatures making starting easy and ensuring an excellent lubricating film at the maximum working temperature of the engine.

In the study of lubricating oils viscosity is usually considered the most important property. It may be defined as the resistance of a liquid to flow. It is measured in the laboratory by means of an instrument known as a viscometer. The time in seconds required for a definite volume of the oil to flow through a standardized orifice at a constant temperature is expressed as the viscosity. The temperature is very important since the viscosity changes with temperature. The oil "thins out" at higher temperatures and "thickens" considerably at lower temperatures. Castor oil shows less change in viscosity with temperature than paraffin base oils while asphalt base oils show greater change in viscosity with temperature than paraffin base oils.

In considering an oil for cold-weather service a property known as "fluidity" is very important. Mathematically this is the reciprocal of viscosity. An oil having a good fluidity at low temperature is one that will pump readily and not clog and become stiff or "gummy". A diesel paraffin base oil shows better fluidity at low temperature than an asphalt base oil, when each has the same viscosity at 210 degrees Fahrenheit.

FROM THE STANDPOINT of safety and economy the oil consumption is important. This is reflected by the volatility test. It is a measure of the percent of the oil distilled off at a given temperature. An unleaded paraffin base oil shows the lowest volatility when compared with other oils of equal viscosity.

Stability in service is likewise of importance. When subjected to engine temperatures most aviation oils have a tendency to break down, forming carbon and sludge in the engine. One of the disadvantages in using Castor oil is its tendency to form gummy substances which deposit on the valves and other engine parts. Some aviation oils show this tendency more than others.



The engine laboratory, where Texaco Pacific East and Oil Company tests the quality of various lubricants.

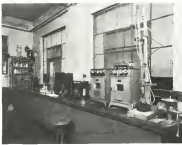
"Pre-treated" paraffin base oils practically eliminate this disadvantage. Petroleum chemists have devised a test known as "carbon residue test," which evaluates the carbon-forming tendency of an oil. An oil showing a very high carbon residue will usually deposit an excess amount of carbon in the engine.

IN THE DEVELOPMENT of oils for the modern aviation engine, engineers and chemists follow the importance of actual performance tests as well as laboratory analysis and specifications. The significance of the various tests can be decided against the results obtained in service from a given oil. Specifications when intelligently made and proper methods set up for their tests, are essential to insure satisfactory and to determine the nature of the oil used, but very often the selection puts too much emphasis on specifications without increasing performance, which is the ultimate test of an oil. A single performance test may not be sufficient to completely demonstrate an oil since there are many more variables to consider than in a laboratory test. Both laboratory and performance tests are essential in the selection and use of an aviation oil, and the more information available the more it is to make the decision.

It should be remembered that in the manufacture of an aviation oil there are two essentials to be considered:

- (1) The crude petroleum from which the oil is refined, and,
 - (2) The method of refining it.
- A brand of oil may be made from a great variety of crude oils having very different characteristics, so it may be made from various blends of crudes, the proper use of which vary from day to day, consequently in either case uniformity or consistent performance is very nearly impossible even though the package and the grade do not change. There are a limited number of refineries in the United States that refine only one crude from one area and consequently produce a very uniform product. With regard to refining methods, many of the refineries have large research staffs that are constantly trying to improve their aviation oils and many refineries have spent huge sums to install modern equipment during the last two years.

Refining methods are used in accordance with the properties of the crude oil. Refineries may produce finished oils of entirely different quality. A poor crude will not produce a superior lubricant, but a very inferior lubricant can be made from the best of crudes if unrefined.



A view of the Texaco Pacific East and Oil Company analytical laboratory, where both new and old lubricants are subjected to testing tests.

Ford Motor Company

AND AMERICAN AERONAUTIC

DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Ford Shows His Experimental Engine to Members of the Press; Comments on Future of the Airplane; the Company Issues Complete Report on First Year of Operation of Ford Airlines

By JOHN T. NEVILL

SO MANY and so varied are the secret experiments and the outward activities of the Ford Motor Company since the company's entry into the aviation industry approximately four years ago, that it is indeed a difficult matter to pick up the threads at this time and trace them back to their origin. Since, after all, the engine does not really utter, the writer will not attempt to do that in every case.

Many of Henry Ford's experiments in various phases of the industry are known facts. Others have remained rumors, and will others, it is safe to assume, have never become known. In this connection it is also safe to assume that Mr. Ford, with the undivided resources at his command, and with his already proven belief in the industrial future of aviation, has overlooked no development with a vestige of a possibility. Certain experiments he is known to have begun and apparently given up for reasons which thus far have remained his own. Other experiments have apparently been stopped for reasons the public can guess at. The word "apparently" is used because there has never been any confirmation that the supposed relinquished experiments have been stopped. Perhaps they have been given up. Perhaps they have not.

At any rate, the only purpose of these articles is to picture the environment that brought the Fords into the aviation industry, and outline the achievements of the company since their entry. Only those unfinished experiments that have become generally known and have excited the interest of the general public will be touched upon.

Such experiments include a large air cooled "X" type engine, a Diesel type engine, the Ford "Diverse" plane, a two cylinder, air cooled engine, which was successfully flown in that plane, and a considerable amount of radio communication work.

As early as October, 1925, Henry Ford, himself, announced his X type air cooled engine by showing it to newspapermen. On the sixth day of that month he led a group of them into his immaculate Dearborn Laboratory (necessity is a characteristic of any part of the Ford empire), pointed out the experimental engine, and explained its features. Briefly, the engine had eight air-cooled cylinders, developing a total of 200 hp and weighing about two pounds to the horsepower. Four banks of two cylinders each, set at right angles to each other carried five oval barrel-shaped combustion chambers. The crankshaft was about 14 in. long and dropped for a measure of vibration. The cylinders and cylinder heads, of course, were fitted for cooling, and the valve seats were of bronze, shrunk into place. Every part was said to be surprisingly accessible and easily removable. Each set of four cylinders operated on a single arm of the crankshaft, with a connecting rod arrangement that did away with the master rod.

This engine was called the first "Ford engine of the air." At that time it was admitted to be "in the experimental stage," and Mr. Ford made no announcement of definite plans for its production. It has never been placed in production.

Information developed by the motor car manufacturer

about his eight cylinder airplane engine was unexpected and entirely in line with the surprising way Mr. Ford at times, reveals his interesting activities. Presently, the occasion was one of those periodic interviews he grants to newspapermen at which he "keeps up" and sends the scribbles rushing back to their respective papers with considerable "hot" front page "copy." Some of his remarks on that day should prove of interest here.

"I HAVE BEEN QUOTED as saying that the first commercial airplane reliably has proved the airplane to be reliable," Mr. Ford said. "Perhaps I did say that, but I doubt that the term alone, could prove such a thing. I am a newspaper at this aviation business, but I can see that it is going to be a great industry."

"Aviation is bigger in possibilities than anything else in the world. Too big to be a one-man patent concern, too big to be any one man's contribution to aviation. Patents are silly things when they are used to hinder any industry. No man has a right to profit from a patent only. That producer parishes, men who are willing to lay back on their ears and do nothing. If any reward is due the man whose brain has produced something new and good, he should get it through the manufacturer and sale of that thing."

"We take patents on our own developments or discoveries only to prevent others from freighting us out when they may choose to make the same discoveries. We use patents to prevent a shut-out game. We believe in the Gospel of Use. Besides, a patent is very seldom wonderful. There is nothing new under the sun. We thought we had something fine when we invented the little gear just under the steering wheel to make the steering of our cars easier. Then we found out that a piano maker had discovered the same principle in 1825, and used it to tune pianos—identically the same gear arrangement."

"In every new development there is always a large element of common property. For example, We got our suggestions from Faraday's book, and he got his ideas from seeing a current generated by a coil passing a charged magnet."

"Many of our patents have been picked up and used by others. When a thing is useful it is bound to come into use. Patents cannot stop it."

Here Mr. Ford explained that he had no intention to manufacture his airplane engine to sell separately. "We have never sold our motor car or tractor engines

separately," he said. "Someday, we fully expect to use all the airplane engines we produce. They all will go into the planes we manufacture."

"All I am doing," the manufacturer confessed, "is helping to get ready for the flying generation that is coming. This new art belongs to the younger people. Here in my own family, it is Elsie who is really responsible for what we are doing. She is the guarantee that may live to see the airplane become a common-place, everyday utility, rather than something unusual which it still is today."

"Of course, one of my biggest interests in the airplane is that it may prove to be a destroyer of war. I think that will be its biggest service. Terrorism now it when he wants."

"When I dip into the future for a human eye could see,
Saw the Vision of the World, read all the wonders that would be,
Saw the heavens filled with commerce, arguings of magic walt,
Planets of the purple twilight, dropping down with costly balm,
Heard the heavens fill with shootings, and there
I heard a ghastly dew
From the nations' airy navies grappling in the central blue;
Till the war-drum throbbed no longer, and the battle-flags were furled—
In the Parliament of Man, the Federation of the world!"

Having quoted this bit of poetry, Mr. Ford defined his own expression as to how the airplane will become a dove of peace.

"The airplane," he said, "is going to enlarge the work of the automobile. The motor car has saved the people up to thoroughly that not can hardly find any American about any part of his country. But they can be found about other parts of the world. The airplane will stop that. In a motor car you can go almost anywhere land wants. In an airplane you can go almost anywhere land wants. In an airplane you can go almost anywhere a man can breathe. With the development of such devices as the supercharger it is possible to go places where a man cannot breathe and cannot climb. When the plane becomes popular it will put power into the people's hands, just as the motor car has. And when international financiers or politicians, propose a war the



An interior view of the factory of The Ford Motor Company, Division of Ford Motor Company

THE BUYER'S LOG BOOK



Oxweld Generator Trucks

IN response to a number of requests for trucks suitable for the CLP-3 and CLP-2 type oxide generators, the Oxweld Acetylene Company, 20 East 42nd St., New York, has recently introduced two new types of trucks to accommodate these generators.

The truck designed to carry the CLP-3 generator also accommodates two cylinders of oxygen. It is constructed throughout. The generator is fastened to the steel deck by means of angle iron braces and two long bolts which are inserted in the handles of the generator and secured by means of turn-buckles. The truck is mounted



The Oxweld truck designed for the CLP-3 type oxide generator.

on two large wheels on the back and a third in front of the engine type makes it possible to turn in a short radius.

A steel coil box, with loop drawings is provided and can be used for wrenches and small tools or for welding or cutting outfit.

The oxygen cylinders are skinned to a steel rack which is fastened to the deck of the truck beside the generator. A sturdy crane is provided to be used in the skimming and carrying the generator. With this crane it is an easy matter to lift the gas left out of the generator. Water and towels can then be drawn off through the outlet at the bottom. The crane jib is made in three sections and can be telescoped when not in use to decrease the height.

Three inch tires are provided on the 24 in. steel wheel and the engine wheel is 12 in. in diameter by 2 in. in width. All wheels are provided with grease cups for lubrication.

The truck designed to accommodate the Type CLP-2 generator accommodates one cylinder of oxygen in addition to the generator. It is intended for extreme portability and can be wheeled anywhere with ease. There are two 24 in. steel wheels and one 5 in. diameter wheel operating on a roller bearing. As in the case of the larger truck all wheels are provided with grease cups for lubrication.

The company also manufactures a complete line of welding and cutting equipment.

Engine Temperature Indicator

THE General Electric Company announces a temperature indicator for aircraft engines for laboratory experimental work and for general service. This device is a coil-wound, temperature compensated instrument, consisting of a thermocouple with its lead and a remote indicating instrument calibrated to read engine heat. When installed in the cylinder heads and walls of aircraft engines, it will indicate the engine temperature at any desired inside point.

The instrument operates on the principle that a junction of two dissimilar metals, when heated, generates electric energy in proportion to the temperature. The dual advantage of the new device is the inherent compensation for cold-junction temperatures, making it unnecessary to correct for changes in ambient temperature.

Van Dorn Bench Grinder

AN announcement has been made by the Van Dorn Electric Tool Company, Cleveland, Ohio, of a new 6 in. bench grinder. This machine is intended for tool dressing, sharpening hand tools and grinding of all kinds. It is supplied with two 6 in. grinding wheels, wheel guards and tool rests, three wire, cable and plug for attachment to the lighting circuit.



The Van Dorn bench grinder.

The new Van Dorn grinder is portable, having a weight of only 36 lb. and is supplied with a convenient handle, so that it can be moved easily from place to place. Rubber pads are fitted on the base, eliminating the necessity of bolting the grinder to the bench for light work. The shaft is secured in ball bearings, with dust tight housing, which the motor is also completely enclosed.

Glidden Aircraft Finishes

A COMPLETE line of protective finishes for aircraft is available, as well as other branches of the aeronautical industry is offered by The Glidden Company which has main offices in Cleveland, O.

Included in the "Glidden" finishes are polished surfaces, gunmetalized, silverplated, metal platers, plywood filler, black render, Kynolite enamel, pigmented dope, dope proof white, clear nitrate dope, clear acetate dope, clear white coating, clear glass top coat, clear plywood sealant, semi-transparent dope, iron oxide oil primer, flexible lacquer enamel, aluminum mixing varnish, dope and lacquer reducers, wood and metal preservatives (Glidden).

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good qualities of the old unprotected metal without its tendency to rust . . . and most of the permanence of heavy construction without its great cost. This material is RPM (Robertson Protected Metal).

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THANK YOU! for watching AVIATION



This picture shows the accessible location of the N. Y. A. T. Airport at North Beach, Queens, on Queens Bay. The air view on the left shows the pier at the time it was opened in June 1928, 1929. The large ramp and the prominent dock for motor-boats can be seen in the photo.

THE NYAT AIRPORT at NORTH BEACH is only 15 minutes from Manhattan now in operation for seaplanes

HOW to get in and out of New York City has been a problem for owners of seaplanes. In recognition of the urgent need for a seaplane flying base, accessible to New York, yet free from the hazards of swift river currents, changing tides, floating debris and heavy water traffic, New York Air Terminals, Inc., has selected North Beach, in the Borough of Queens, for one of its seaplane airports. Here in the quiet, protected waters of Queens Bay, owners and operators of seaplanes will find an ideal landing place.

By next year an excellent flying field of about 200 acres will also be available at North Beach.

Speed routes operating on regular schedule between the airport and East 42nd Street, Manhattan, provide quick access to the city. The running time is only fifteen minutes, affording the quickest passage from any airport to Manhattan Island. There is also a convenient motor route by way of the 59th Street Bridge.

Air Transport companies, air commuters and sportsmen flying, using seaplanes or amphibians, are invited to make use of this modern airport, constructed especially for their convenience. Here they will find every facility for the safe handling, storage, maintenance and inspection of airplanes. Manufacturers and distributors of marine aircraft will find the port ideal for demonstration purposes. Write for our bulletin A-30.



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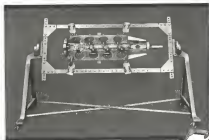
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At left Lipe Motor Stand is shown with 6355 Motor. Note stand legs which permit accurate angular adjustment. In this motor are carefully detailed.

Below, you see the Stand with rotating plate for radial type motors. Motor may be removed on this stand and cleaned in any desired position.



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The Lipe Motor Stand is a necessary piece of equipment that greatly adds to the speed and efficiency of testing down, assembling, repairing and overhauling of airplane motors. The Lipe Motor Stand is of universal type and handles in-line, V-type and radial motors to equal advantage in sizes from 60 to 630 h. p.

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Standard equipment includes one rotating adapter ring for any specified radial type motor; and brackets for any in-line or V-type motor. Additional adapter rings for other radial motors can be supplied.

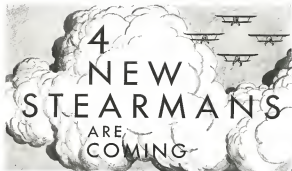
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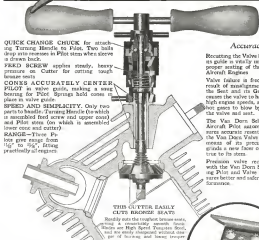
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Model 40-B4 is of proven design and typical Boeing quality construction. It is built with heavy construction. Metal load surfaces are sound-proofed. Deeply upholstered, comfortable seats. Perfect heating and ventilation. Special night flying equipment. A 325 h.p. Mustang gives ample reserve power.

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(All performance figures listed in maximum payload, sea level, standard conditions)

Type	4-engine cargo plane		4-engine cargo plane		4-engine cargo plane		4-engine cargo plane	
	Model 40-B4	Model 40-B4	Model 40-B4	Model 40-B4	Model 40-B4	Model 40-B4	Model 40-B4	Model 40-B4
Wingspan	100 ft.	100 ft.	100 ft.	100 ft.	100 ft.	100 ft.	100 ft.	100 ft.
Length	40 ft.	40 ft.	40 ft.	40 ft.	40 ft.	40 ft.	40 ft.	40 ft.
Height	12 ft.	12 ft.	12 ft.	12 ft.	12 ft.	12 ft.	12 ft.	12 ft.
Weight	12,000 lbs.	12,000 lbs.	12,000 lbs.	12,000 lbs.	12,000 lbs.	12,000 lbs.	12,000 lbs.	12,000 lbs.
Max. speed	170 mph.	170 mph.	170 mph.	170 mph.	170 mph.	170 mph.	170 mph.	170 mph.
Cruising speed	150 mph.	150 mph.	150 mph.	150 mph.	150 mph.	150 mph.	150 mph.	150 mph.
Range	1,000 miles	1,000 miles	1,000 miles	1,000 miles	1,000 miles	1,000 miles	1,000 miles	1,000 miles
Max. altitude	12,000 ft.	12,000 ft.	12,000 ft.	12,000 ft.	12,000 ft.	12,000 ft.	12,000 ft.	12,000 ft.
Rate of climb	1,000 ft./min.	1,000 ft./min.	1,000 ft./min.	1,000 ft./min.	1,000 ft./min.	1,000 ft./min.	1,000 ft./min.	1,000 ft./min.
Rate of descent	1,000 ft./min.	1,000 ft./min.	1,000 ft./min.	1,000 ft./min.	1,000 ft./min.	1,000 ft./min.	1,000 ft./min.	1,000 ft./min.
Rate of turn	180°/sec.	180°/sec.	180°/sec.	180°/sec.	180°/sec.	180°/sec.	180°/sec.	180°/sec.
Turning radius	500 ft.	500 ft.	500 ft.	500 ft.	500 ft.	500 ft.	500 ft.	500 ft.

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That's the experience of "Stu" Auer flying a Waco "220" Taper-Wing which, he says, "is the safest airplane built"

A WACO "220" Taper-Wing takes off from a New York airport. It heads west with 3 1/2 hours of fuel. The veteran Stuart Auer is at the stick. Robert Heron is in the front cockpit.

Over New Jersey the ceiling lowers. They've gradually burned lower down ... finally just above the tree tops. They skim the Pennsylvania River. They skim along between the high lands north towards Philadelphia.

Then fog! Heavy fog! It thickens ... closes up rapidly in front ... blends with the color of the water. So they turn and head south for Barnsburg.

Pittsburgh smoke coming up through the fog. No chance to set down anywhere but in the barnyard! Then it's typical of WACO! It's a good ship to be in when emergencies come along.

"Stu" Auer says, "I believe that no other ship could land in that short space, or take off again with the load I took. I can recommend the WACO Taper-Wing to anybody who desires the safest airplane built. I know of no aircraft that is constructed as well, that flies so remarkably well and that, in a pinch, will carry pilot and passengers through to safety. WACO is my choice."



Plan of the fuselage and wing

too quickly, the gas gives out ... at 6,000 feet altitude!

And then ... set the sailplane, then the wing and glide down through the fog. Just in there and sink. Trust to luck and WACO. Down ... down ... on a ridge of the ground until within 100 feet of it ... almost too late to do anything.

And what ground! A farm near Bridgeport, Ohio. A small field with houses and barns at both ends ... trees and hills at either side. And the ship in a shocking condition, one wing slightly low. Yet, even then, it

"There is no other ship," Auer says, "that I would have pulled up through fog and contacted men, where I had reason to believe the fog was thicker, specially as we had no parachutes."



View of the ground field ... and take!

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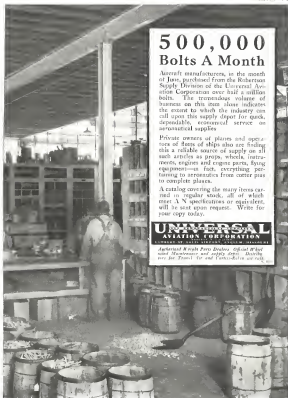
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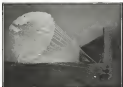


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